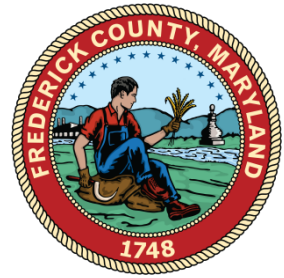




September 25, 2019



Frederick County Sustainability Commission  
Meeting Minutes

**Present:** John Ferri - Chair, Betty Law – Vice Chair, Jennifer Bird - Secretary, Jim Reed, Bill Steigelman, Mark Sankey, Ron Kaltenbaugh, Faith Klareich, Elizabeth Van Dolah, Joe Richardson, David Lake

**OSER staff:** Dawn Ashbacher, Shannon Moore, Tyrah Cobb-Davis

**Frederick County Council:** Kai Hagen

**Guests/Public:** Tim Goodfellow, Dennis Superczynski, John Dimitriou, Mike Paone, Drew Brudelis

**Meeting Opening:**

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 pm by John Ferri and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Welcome: New Commissioner David Lake:**

David Lake was welcomed as the newest member of the FCSC.

**Approval of Minutes:**

The August meeting minutes were reviewed by the Commission. John moved to approve the minutes. Mark seconded the motion. Joe Richardson abstained. The minutes were approved.

**Presentation: Livable Frederick Implementation: Update and Next Steps – Livable Frederick Staff:**

Tim Goodfellow – Frederick County Department of Planning and Permitting

County adopted Livable Frederick on September 3, 2019.

The Livable Frederick effort was initiated in 2015, and included extensive public involvement.

The Action Framework contains the goals to support the vision statement in the plan.

The County Council adopted 44 amendments to the plan in the final stages of the process. The planning department categorized the amendments by action item.

Dennis Superczynski – Frederick County Department of Planning and Permitting

Previous to Livable Frederick, Planning was outlined in an overall document supported by regional plans.

This process didn't provide complete coverage for the County.

Livable Frederick will be more efficient and allow for prioritization of planning efforts.

Various plans will be developed under Livable Frederick:

Small area plans will allow the Planning Department to create a more detailed plan for smaller municipalities.

Corridor plans may also be developed along longer roadways.

A large area plan may look at issues like agriculture.

A green infrastructure plan may look at green infrastructure that would go into a healthy environment.

Planning Department will create goals for when these various plans will be developed over the next five years.

Each plan will have an advisory committee to contribute input during the development of the plan. Members of the Sustainability Commission may be invited to join the advisory committees.

Tim Goodfellow

Sugarloaf Mountain is part of the County's green infrastructure.

There is broad policy guidance for creation of a Sugarloaf Plan.

The plan will include a study area boundary, a resource assessment, issue identification, and policy proposals/management actions.

This area is a biodiversity hotspot according to MDNR. There are known populations of RTEs and there are brook trout remaining in the streams. May be last bit of brook trout habitat in the Monocacy watershed.

The goal is to:

- Preserve the health and integrity of the vast forest land. Looking for incentives to expand that forest cover.

- Maintain the rural nature of this area.

The Planning Dept will organize an advisory committee and would like a member of FCSC involved.

Zoning is the Resource Conservation Zone.

John Dimitriou – Frederick County Department of Planning and Permitting

MD 355/MD 85 Corridor/South Frederick Corridor

Seeing a demand for urban mixed – use development.

This corridor has a lot of low density and transient uses.

There is a lot of infrastructure that can be expanded upon.

The original focus was the South Frederick Triangle. Has been expanded to include Ballenger Creek East.

Goal is to have structured advisory groups with diverse representation. People from the area and interested parties throughout the County. Opportunity for member from FCSC to participate.

Planners would like to have a community charette process, an intensive all-day experience to come up with different ways to design the community.

Planners are interested in working with organizations/networks that may help the County to work towards ecological sustainability. Could involve Ecodistricts, Living Community Challenge, 2030 Districts Network, and LEED.

Discussion:

Ron suggested that background materials be provided to the members of the LV advisory committees to assist new members in understanding the complexities of the issues. John Dimitriou said a webpage with such information would be developed for each topical area. Dennis Superczynski said a “briefing book” would also be provided to share the basics. Both planners indicated that it would be advantageous for FCSC members to be part of the LV advisory committees. This would help the committees and enable information to be quickly disseminated to the FCSC.

#### **OSER Updates –Shannon Moore/Dawn Ashbacher:**

MD Solar Co-op - Tyrah Cobb-Davis described the MD Sun solar co-operative program that will be made available to residential and small business customers. Three information sessions will be held, the first one being October 2, from 7-9 pm at the Urbana Regional Library.

Ron suggested setting up tours of solar installations on homes or lists of homes available to be viewed on an appointment basis.

Creek Releaf – Creek Releaf program has been extended to the end of October. There will be a targeted mailing list. There are 100 acres of land that are of interest.

Council of Government (COG) – There is an agricultural work group within regional planning. Actions of the group include: identifying food sources, local consumption versus production, the agricultural economy and agricultural soils (“Healthy Soils”). Shannon motioned that the COG agricultural working group continue. This motion was approved.

Dawn discussed the COG Mayors for Climate – Action Plan for the Region and Lunch Out of Landfills project.

### **Legislative Priorities Update:**

Dawn noted the Legislative Agenda is open to FCSC member suggestions. Regenerative Agriculture is included as one of the topics on the website.

### **FCSC Objectives for County Executive Discussion:**

John Ferri mentioned that FCSC board members (chair, vice-chair and secretary) will be meeting with the County Executive, Jan Gardner on Nov. 26, 2019. The purpose of the meeting is to hear what topics the County Executive would like the FCSC to undertake and for us to share items the Commission members are interested in pursuing. John shared an outline of suggested topics: Climate Change Resiliency, more involvement in the county processes, strategic integration of FCSC into the county process so that it would not be easy for a future C.E. to dismiss the FCSC.

Joe added that recycling in the county has many problems. However, there are current technologies available to address these problems now, rather than delaying to do more research. Joe will send these ideas to John Ferri for dissemination. There was a discussion to coordinate and support other committees who already involved in addressing recycling/composting issues.

Bill suggested looking into installing micro grids on county property, such as Winchester Hall. Dawn said such a project falls under “operations” and was not sure how this could be pursued by the FCSC.

Faith mentioned the importance of metrics so that we know whether we are accomplishing our stated goals and cross-cutting impacts.

The group discussed Kevin’s chart for identifying and solving water issues caused by climate crisis.

### **Additional Information**

Kai said there is a working group starting that will be doing research on plastic waste solutions. Research will include legislative options and whether particular actions were successful. The group will produce a report. At present eight people are members of the group. Kai asked that anyone interested in joining the group email him.

### **Commission Members Items of Interest**

Ron has been very involved in *Drive Electric Week*. There have been 14 events in the greater area. In one event more than 20 EV cars to were shown.

Ron will be giving a talk on the Climate Crisis on Oct. 10 at 7 pm at Fountain Rock Nature Center in Walkersville, MD. He announced that there is a push to have as many talks as possible on the Climate Crisis on Nov. 20. A general discussion followed about the recent Climate Crisis events in DC.

Betty gave a short update on the Ft. Detrick Restoration Advisor Board (RAB). Jenn Kunze from Clean Water Action, Kevin, Betty and Jennifer Hahn, another RAB member, are trying to form a working group to access information about the superfund site rather than just relying on reports received at the bi-annual RAB meetings.

Joe updated the Commission on the school composting food waste initiative. Ten schools are now involved. The students are collecting data and Joe is seeing success. Forty-five to sixty % of what would have been trash is being recycled rather than going into landfills.

Joe will be speaking at Shepherd College and an article about the program will be in the Rotarian, which has international distribution. The T-Bar Ranch is undergoing creek restoration and a floodplain is being recreated. During the process students will be collecting base-line data for stream restoration. The property is transitioning to regenerative agriculture which will take about two years to complete the transformation.

Joe also mentioned that this Saturday, Sept. 28, the Howard County Agricultural Extension Office will hold an event on “Compost and Healthy Soils”.

Mark will attend the MD Clean Energy Summit on Oct. 22.

Liz will be going to Grand Bay, MS for a week of Resiliency Dialog and sharing collaborative learning. She will report back to the group. Liz is also expecting a baby in the spring. Everyone congratulated Liz on the happy occasion.

Bill has a friend who was recently hired at the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA). At the next FCSC meeting Bill hopes to have more information from his friend on MEA sponsored projects.

Kai is looking to ban helium balloons within the county and is looking into possible language to craft a bill. Howard County commissioners have voted unanimously for the ban. Kai may use that language for his initial proposal.

**Public Comments:**

None.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00.

The next meeting will be October 16, 2019.